GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:550
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2009
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO BEEDI INDUSTRY
Kodikunnil Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the beedi industry of country including Kerala is facing acute financial problems and unemployment due to the statutory restrictions;

(b) if so, whether some States have requested the Union Government to provide comprehensive package of financial assistance for various ongoing State level programmes for the revival of beedi industry and welfare/rehabilitation of the beedi workers;

(c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Union Government thereto; and

(d) the time by which said financial assistance is likely to be released by the Union Government to States for the purpose?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a): Yes Madam. The Beedi Industry in Kerala is facing problems due to statutory restrictions and many have migrated to other work.

(b) to (d): State Government of Kerala has requested for the following:

(i) formulation of a viable scheme at the National level for the rehabilitation of Beedi workers;

(ii) to declare a comprehensive package for beedi workers as an interim measure;
OR
to grant financial assistance to various ongoing state level programmes for the rehabilitation of Beedi workers.

The Beedi Workers Welfare Fund Act, 1976, has been enacted by the Parliament to provide for financing of measures to promote the welfare of persons engaged in beedi establishments. Under this Act, Beedi Workers Welfare fund has been set up. In accordance with the objective of the Welfare Fund, several welfare schemes have been evolved to extend Health, Housing, Educational, and Recreational facilities to beedi workers and their families.

Ministry of Labour and Employment has initiated action for rehabilitation of the beedi workers by providing vocational training in some courses/trades according to local needs to facilitate alternate source of employment.